

PERIN - ASSUMPTIONS

UNHIDDEN

- B2 development costs are ignored, being judged as 'sunk'
- any combat attrition of B2s is judged unsatisfactory (by USAF)
- multi-mission aircraft are preferable, due their additional flexibility
- Desert Storm's aviation-favorable setting can be applied to future aviation-focused campaigns
- B52 combat sortie-rate data applies to B2s
- Distances from bases to targets in a future campaign are the same as the just-concluded Desert Storm
- Stealth's combat value is unchanged over the course of the campaign
- Cost uncertainty for future aviation systems can be put aside by just using point estimates
- A non-black/white answer to the question posed by Senate Armed Services Committee is acceptable
- The difference in years between initial operational capability between B2 and A-X is unimportant
- Policymakers would be swayed by Northrop's silhouette analysis (SASC was)
- Aircraft carrier (CV) loss likelihood is vanishingly small

HIDDEN

- acquisition costs for the aircraft alternatives (the combination of development and procurement) are an OK proxy for total system costs
- a smaller overall aviation force (the result of paying for the development costs for 2 distinct aircraft types instead of 1) is acceptable for the benefits gained by having all capabilities offered by all alternatives in the inventory
- sufficient funds overall will be available to buy an inventory of both land-based and sea-based aircraft tailored to their basing
- bomb tonnage delivered is a sufficient proxy for targets killed over a campaign
- cruise missile contributions to such a campaign can be ignored in comparing the participating aircraft types
- only one conflict at a time is most likely

ASSUMPTIONS PERIN MAY NOT REALIZE

- US needs a bombing capability
- manned aircraft are the right way to fill that need
- nonoverlapping capabilities (in Perin's 'rings') are equal in importance to the capabilities that do overlap (bombing fixed targets)
- an analyst can get away with a grey/copout conclusion to his analysis